

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 A method for integrating web photo-services for a browser-enabled device, comprising the steps of:
 - (a) providing a server that communicates with the device over a network;
 - (b) associating images stored on at least one photo-service site with a user account;
 - (c) receiving from the device an inventory of images stored on the device;
 - (d) providing an image-related web application to the device over the network, the web application requiring access to the user's images; and
 - (e) providing a list of the images associated with a user's account to the web application, wherein the list of images includes an image reference for each image and an indication of whether each image is stored on the device or on the photo-service site, such that the web application may perform at least one function on the users images regardless of where the images are stored.

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- 2 The method of claim 1 further including the step of allowing the user to select the web application from the browser-enabled device.
- 3 The method of claim 2 further including the step of:

for images that are identified in the list as being stored locally on the browser-enabled device, generating by the web application a reference that comprises a file path to the image in the browser-enabled device along with a resize command; and

5 for images that are identified in the list as being stored on a remote server, requesting a reference to a resized image from the server.

4 The method of claim 3 further including the steps of:

for images that are identified in the list as being stored on a remote server, configuring the server to fetch the image from the indicated location; resizing and converting the image to the required format, and passing a URL to the resized and converted image back to the web application for insertion into a web page that is transmitted from the web application to the browser-enabled device.

5 The method of claim 4 further including the step of interpreting by the web browser the references from the web application and rendering the images on the browser-enabled device.

6 The method of claim 5 further including the steps of:

20 allowing by the web application the user to select from among the displayed images; and performing a function on the selected images.

7 The method of claim 6 further including the step of providing a customized web browser for reporting the content of the browser-enabled device to the server.

5 8 The method of claim 7 further including the step of configuring the customized

browser to report the image contents of the browser-enabled device automatically.

9 The method of claim 7 further including the step of configuring the customized browser to report the image contents of the browser-enabled device by request.

10 The method of claim 9 further including the step of showing available web applications to the user via hyperlinks on a web page.

11 The method of claim 10 further including the step of including metadata for each image in the list sent from the server to the web application.

15 12 A system for integrating web photo-services for a browser-enabled device comprising:

means for providing a server that communicates with the device over a network;

means for associating images stored on at least one photo-service site with a

20 user account;

means for receiving from the device an inventory of images stored on the device;

means for providing an image-related web application to the device over the

network, the web application requiring access to the user's images; and

means for providing a list of the images associated with a user's account to the web application, wherein the list of images includes an image reference for each image and an indication of whether each image is stored on the device or on the photo-service site, such that the web application may perform at least one function on the users images regardless of where the images are stored.

13 The system of claim 12 wherein the user selects a web application from the browser-enabled device.

14 The system of claim 13 wherein for images that are identified in the list as being stored locally on the browser-enabled device, the web application generates a reference that comprises a file path to the image in the browser-enabled device along with a resize command, and for images that are identified in the list as being stored on a remote server, the web application requests these images from the server.

15 The system of claim 14 wherein the server further functions to;
for images that are identified in the list as being stored on a remote server, the server fetches the image from the indicated location;
resizes and converts the image to the required format, and
passes a URL to the resized and converted image back to the web application for insertion into a web page that is transmitted from the web application to the browser-enabled device.

16 The system of claim 15 wherein the web browser interprets the references from the web application and renders the images on the browser-enabled device.

5 17 The system of claim 16 the web application allows the user to select from among

the displayed images and performs a function on the selected images.

18 The system of claim 17 wherein the web browser is configured to report the image contents of the browser-enabled device automatically.

10 19 The system of claim 18 wherein the web browser is configured to report the image contents of the browser-enabled device by request.

15 20 The system of claim 19 wherein available web applications are shown to the user via hyperlinks on a web page.

21 The system of claim 20 wherein metadata for each image is included in the list sent from the server to the web application.

22 An online system comprising:

20 a client device having user files stored thereon;

a server in communication with the client device over a network, the server for associating files uploaded from the client device with a particular user and for

transmitting the user files to a remote server for storage, the server further for supplying a web application to the client device; and

a browser running on the client device for interacting with the web application, wherein the browser is customized to report the user files stored on the client device to
5 the server,

wherein when requested, the second server provides the web application with a list identifying the user's files that are stored on both the client device and the remote server, such that the web application may operate on the all of the user's files regardless of the files' storage location.

10 23 The online system of claim 22 wherein the files comprise image files.

15 24 The online system of claim 23 wherein the web application performs imaging related function on the image files.

20 25 The online system of claim 24 wherein the remote server comprises a web site separate from the server.

26 The online system of claim 25 wherein the client device comprises an image capture
device.

27 The online system of claim 26 including a plurality of client devices that communicate data in different formats, and a plurality of online photo service sites,

wherein each of the photo service sites utilize different data models, the server further including;

a meta-application for defining a common data model format for the different formats of the photo service sites, such that when a request is received from a client device for photo services from a particular photo service site, the request is passed to the photo service site, and wherein when a response from the photo service site is received, the response is converted from the data model of the photo service site to the common data model format, the converted request is then presented to the requesting client device in the data format required by the requesting client device.

28 A method for allowing a web application to access image files stored on both a client device and distributed across remote locations, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a gateway server that communicates with the client device and associates images from the client device with a user account;
- (b) providing the client device with a customized browser that is capable of reporting the image contents of the device to the gateway server;
- (c) connecting the client device with a web application;
- (d) receiving a request by the gateway server from the web application asking what images are available for the user; and
- (e) sending to the web application from the gateway server a list of image references corresponding to the user's images, wherein each image reference identifies one of the user's images and whether the image is stored on the client device or on a remote server, such that the image

references allow the web application to sort and select the images to carry out a predefined function even though the web application is not given access directly to the user's images.

5 29 The method of claim 28 further including the step of allowing the user to select a web application from the client device.

30 The method of claim 29 further including the step of:

for images that are identified in the list as being stored locally on the client device, generating by the web application a reference that comprises a file path to the image in the client device along with a resize command; and

for images that are identified in the list as being stored on a remote server, requesting the image from the gateway server.

15 31 The method of claim 30 further including the steps of:

configuring the gateway server to fetch the image from the indicated location; resizing and scaling the image;

translating the reference to the image from a HTTP URL into a file path on the client device; and

20 transmitting the resized image and its reference to the client device for use by the web application.

32 The method of claim 31 further including the step of interpreting by the browser the references from the web application and rendering the images on the client device.

33 The method of claim 32 further including the steps of:

5 allowing by the web application the user to select from among the displayed images; and

 performing a function on the selected images.

34 The method of claim 33 further including the step of configuring the customized browser to report the image contents of the client device automatically.

10 35 The method of claim 34 further including the step of configuring the customized browser to report the image contents of the client device by request.

15 36 The method of claim 35 further including the step of showing available web applications to the user via hyperlinks on a web page.

20 37 The method of claim 36 further including the step of including metadata for each image in the list sent from the gateway server to the web application.